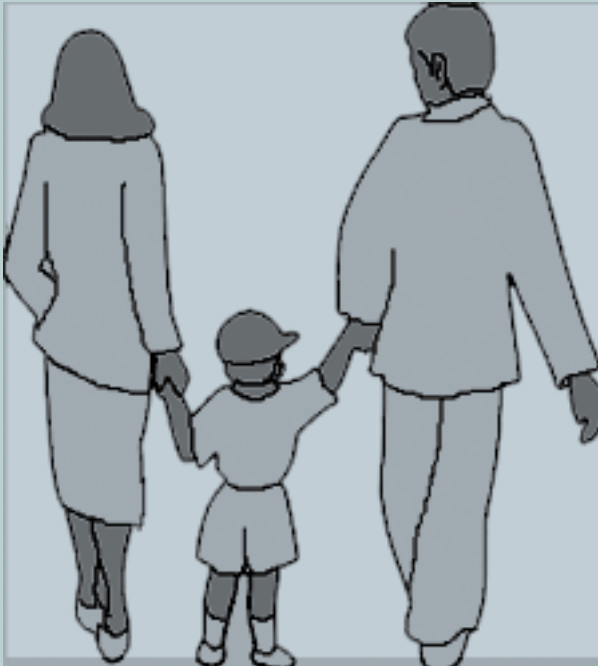


BOOK 2

MY DEAR SON



N Natarajan



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Introduction

Introduction

Dear son,

You may remember the days, while I was working in Hyderabad, for close to six years, we staff members commuted to office in a chartered van. It took 45 minutes to an hour one way. During that 45 Minutes, we discussed a variety of issues starting with domestic violence to world wars, Office politics and national politics, stock markets to World Bank transactions. other common topics of discussion are Literary discussions, Religion, Spirituality, Poetry, quiz, pun and stories. The list is quite long.

The narration and short stories you find are a few important ones among what we discussed. Every day would be different. Some times people who do not travel in our route regularly opt to travel, with us for the sheer fun.

Some one traveling in the van asked one day, "who is Van Hussain?" Several people in the van answered in one voice. "It is simple. It is a brand name of trousers! Could be the promoter of the brand".

The man who asked the question, said, "You are all wrong". He continued, "It is the new driver of this van, called Hussein".

Some times we had some problems too.

While we returned to our homes in the evening, I would be among the last couple of commuters.

As the people alight on the way we remove our footwear / shoes. Fold our legs to the seat and chit chat.

One day, as the van arrived at my stop I slipped into a pair of footwear and reached home.

Hardly ten minutes went by. The phone at home, rang. There was an angry voice at the other end of telephone. For some time I did not understand what his problem was.

He directed me to see if I have a complete pair of my chapels. I said, yes I wore and walked home. Then I discovered, I have one of my chapels exchanged with his.

I told him coolly, don't worry we will rectify the mistake on the following day.

I had no problem walking with different footwear. May be, it could invite the attention of some on the way. It does not matter to me at all. Some might laugh. A few others might

remember that incidence for a few more days. But my friend, I understand, cannot take any of these.

On the following day, he wore a fresh pair of footwear and packed one of my footwear in a news paper. That packet was brought in a plastic cover.

The following morning and evening, the van was filled with laughter.

There was different perspective to that incidence. It was found that only two out of 14 persons had no problem in walking with such a pair of chapels.

Rest of them were feeling too awkward to walk such a pair of footwear appear as a joker. We discussed as how to distract others around in noticing this mistake. It was one of the hilarious discussions we had.

During these discussions, we realized that every one of us held divergent views in most topics. That is, we realized several realities. All of us were exposed to several realities.

I am sharing with you, in this book, the essence of those discussions along with some stories. Why stories?

We might forget the theme with the passage of time. But stories stick around the mind for longer time.

You will do well to share, these themes and stories, with friends and colleagues whenever you find an occasion.

When you are on a family trip or a holiday evening with my grandson, make it a point to tell as many themes and stories he can listen and internalize.

N Natarajan

Bangalore

1. Theme: Never say a lie: _____

Know this: _____

During my professional life I had occasion to understand what people felt about living a virtuous life. There are very few believed in it. Many believe that there should not be a rigid frame work for leading the life. Typical opinion expressed by many people I sampled, can be summarized as follows. _____

(1) Speaking lies are inevitable in life. _____

(2) It is perfectly all right to say a lie to avoid a punishment or to tide over a difficult situation. _____

(3) It is profitable to tell lies. _____

(4) One can entertain others with lies. _____

(5) For some, lies are breath. They need no motives. _____

Unfortunately, many are unaware the truth that: _____

(1) Lies bring about losses and some times disasters. _____

(2) There are an insignificantly small number of people who live only by Truth. Such people may have no great skills. Yet they are in demand. _____

(3) Consciously, practice talking only truth in _____

every situation. You will discover the benefits and you will never say a lie again.

Advice:

(1) Decide today that you will not say a lie in any situation. Well, there are some situations when you speak a truth it could affect some one seriously. Do not speak the truth but do not lie.

You need to be conscious of this for some days and perhaps a few months. Then you will find that not saying a lie would have become your nature. There is no need to announce it to any one. The moment you do, many would be tempted to test you. You will have time only to go through the tests and nothing else.

There after, you will never look back.

There are not many stories that highlight the ill-effects of living by lies. The following story will do that. The story originates from Persia. To my surprise, the similar stories of Romanian origin are no different in its contents. This convinces, good judges and rich people who lie are common in every age and place.

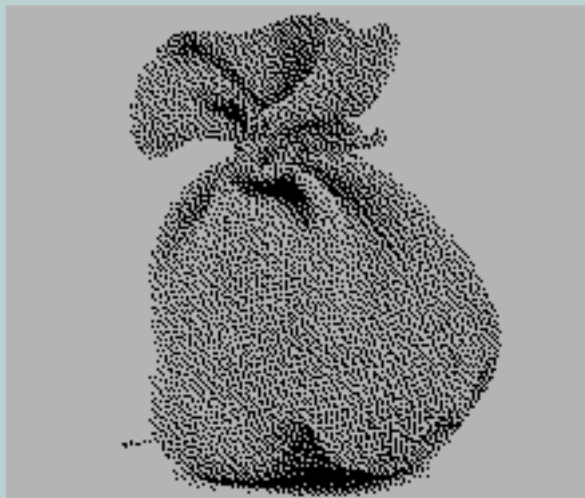
Theme: Never Say a lie.

STORY 1

Poor man and the rich merchant.

It was a busy noon in the largest market place in the capital. People come from far away places for both buying and selling. The merchandise is brought on camel backs as well as donkey's.

A poor man, called Ahmed, was living by working as a porter for merchants in the market. Ahmed is a simple person who works hard and a believer in God.



As we were wading through the crowd, he stumbles on an object on one of the narrow passages in the market. He bent down to pick the obstacle on the road to leave on the side of the walk. He found it was a leather money bag. Only very rich merchants own such big purse. He opened and found a large number of Gold coins in it.

While he was wondering who would have lost it, an announcer, was making the following announcement:

A merchant, Sheik..... has lost his purse in market. Any one who found and return would be rewarded ten Gold coins. For poor people like Ahmed, ten Gold coins were huge money.

Ahmed approached the announcer and told him that he had found the purse. He requested the announcer, to lead him to the merchant who lost the purse.

On seeing Ahmed carrying his lost purse, the sheik's face lit-up. He took the purse and counted the coins. Ahmed was waiting for the reward that was announced. Sheik turned his face and pretended to be busy with his work. Ahmed after waiting for some time reminded the sheik that he is waiting for the reward.

Now the sheik kept a cold face. He bluntly told Ahmed that he will not give any reward. He said, "Before the Chief of the soldiers come to market, vanish from here. Otherwise I will complain to him that you have stolen 100 gold coins from my purse".

"You will be jailed for ever", threatened the Sheik. Poor Ahmed took the case to the Sultan.

The subjects of the country revered their ruler, known as Sultan for being both just and extremely intelligent.

Sheik and Admed were summoned to present their case. Ahmed told whatever happened in the market place. He pleased that the Sheik not only did not keep up his promise but threatened him to get him arrested and jailed.

It was the turn of the Sheik. Sheik agreed that the purse was lost in the market and Ahmed located and brought to him. But, Sheik said, "When I counted the coins in it, instead of 200 Gold Coins, there were only 100 in it". "He should have taken that 100 gold coins". I did him a favor of not handing over to Chief of Soldiers, because he was poor.

It did not take even a minute for the Sultan

to understand the problem. He delivered his judgment, as follows. The judgment, you will find, is logical and indisputable.

My subjects do not lie. I accept the versions given by Ahmed as well as Sheik.

If Ahmed was a dishonest person, he could have kept all the coins to himself. He did not do it.

The Sheik found only 100 gold coins instead of 200. This establishes the fact that the purse found by Admed is not what Sheik lost. So, he ordered Sheik to hand over the purse with 100 Gold coins to Admed and instructed his Chief of Security to investigate the missing purse of Sheik.

Ahmed received a reward more than he was promised. The greedy Sheik lost all that came back to him. That is what punishment he received for his lies.

2. Theme: Love and Friendship are illusions.

Know this:

(1) Illusion can be defined a state of mind when an apparently non-existent object of phenomenon appears to exist or an existent Phenomenon appears non-existent.

(2) Love and friendship is born and die in ones mind.

(3) It is part of the trick-pack played by nature / God / a Superior force which easterners understand as Maya, to keep all forms of life in a cycle of Birth- reproduce - Grow - Death.

(4) While love disappears at some stage in youth, the friendship accompanies man till his end.

(5) The friend is defined as some one who helps you in case of a difficult situation you face, without seeking a reward or return.

(6) It is weak among us look at friendship as a Devine intervention to bail themselves out when in trouble. That is the important reason for people to glorify friendship.

(7) Take any definition of a good friendship, and ask yourself to whom you would be such a good friend. You will not find an answer. Ask as many as you know. None will have.

The problem is that every one is looking for such an ideal friend, who would be a man Friday for him.

(8) Very rarely people get along well for a long time. The team of two. There could more reasons for the relationship to last than

going strictly by the definition of friendship.

(9) More often, friendship between two expand into a team. Typically the members will have divergent socio-economic backgrounds. Every one looks for some specific aspect of a life, from others. Examples are:

Money, a shoulder to cry, muscle power, official position, to run errands, sings their praise and so on. When these are met even national, the ties lasts long.

(10) Most friendship breakup some day leaving bitter feeling among its members.

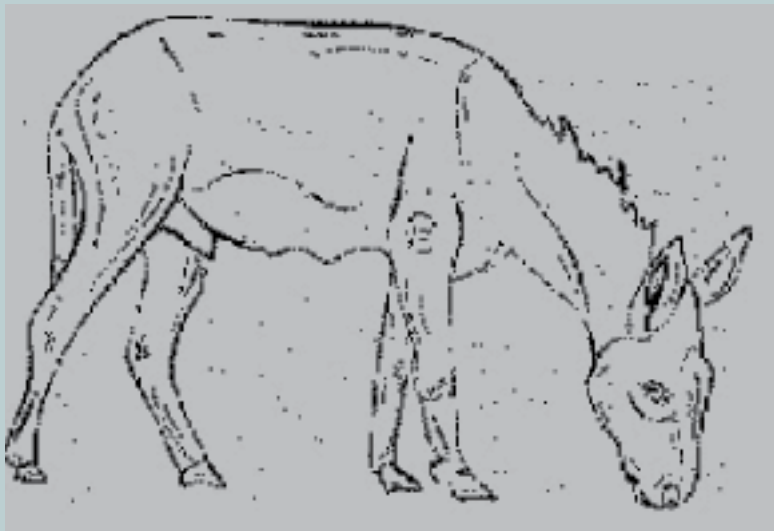
When I explained this to my co-travelers in the van, for the first time, many protested violently. A couple of days latter they congratulated me silently. A very good story to illustrate the typical scenario

2. Theme: Friendship & love are illusions

Story: Three friends

when there are more than two identifying themselves as friends; it is refereed as friend's circle. We may have different friend circle at different stages of life and also in different life spheres.

If only you give a due thought, you will discover that the members of each circle will vary in terms of their individual strengths and seeks others to compliment their weakness.



We will proceed to the story.

There lived a Fox in the forest which befriended a donkey in a village adjoining the forest.

A lion in the forest was also a good friend of the fox. Let us analyze how there can be friendship between the three different species.

Lion is agile fast and powerful. It hunts its food. The lion needs no other animal, for its own survival. But yet, it leaves a little from

its hunting for the lesser animal to feast on. Life of lion is not threatened by a fox, is an important aspect.

Animals like fox have speeds but no power to hunt its food. Fox depends on lion for its survival. In return animals like fox sing the praise of lion and lion is happy with it. You may call it ego satisfaction.

Fox has its ego hurt because it has to praise lion for its survival. So reaches the donkey in the village to get its hurt ego healed.

Donkey needs no one for its survival. It is slow, dull and hard working. But donkeys have their unique situation that it does all work with no compensation. So it found a shoulder to cry when fox offered its friendship. In return donkey praised fox for its goodness. Fox sees no threat from donkey, and need to listen to donkey's tale of woe, whenever it met. Otherwise fox has no real benefit in associating itself with donkey. It is also true that Lions have no purpose served by its association with Fox.

Friendship between the three continues for long. A situation arose when the friends needed each other, for its survival.

The lion was injured during a hunting expedition. A few bones broke and a few

other bones were dislocated. Lion could not hunt any more. Now both lion and fox starved without food.

The hungry lion asked the fox, if it could some how organize some food. Fox was equally in hunger. Suddenly, fox remembered the donkey in the village. It explained the lion. The donkey's is a useless animal. Its friendship got us no where. Now it is time when donkey's friendship will come of use.

Lion was surprised. How come a lazy donkey helps us? Fox said, "I will bring it here". You knock it off in one blow. We both will eat it.

Lion agreed to that idea but demanded to know how to bring the donkey to the forest.

Fox replied, "It is quite simple". "Any animal which live in the cities and villages have inherited the weaknesses from humans".

"They attach great importance to friendship, which can be exploited", reasoned the fox.

"Most importantly they will fall victims to flattery". "These two are enough to bring them to forest.

Lion asked the fox, if it meant that animals living along side humans have no brain at all.

"You said it", replied the fox and set itself on

a journey to the village to meet the donkey.

In the village, when every one had slept off, the donkey was trying to find its food in the streets. Fox met the donkey and greeted.

As it was usual to the donkey, it started listing the listless woes of donkeys as specie. Fox, this time, was not a mute listener.

Fox assured the fox that there was always a way to come out of misery. Fox went on. The humans always exploit animals for their selfish ends. So, it is better to live only among animals. You have such soft grass abundant in the forest. You can enjoy them for free. There are no people in the forest to enslave animals.

Donkey was not that dumb, what fox thought it would be. "I know that, in forests there are several wild animals that would devour us", observed the donkey. Fox said, "It is merely the rumor created by wicked men to ensure animals do not disappear into forest". "Am I not meeting you often? Am I not living in the forest? Which wild animal did it devour me?"

Donkey was not fully convinced, as such.

Fox, realizing that its plan A did not work with

the donkey, pulled out, its plan B. "There is an acute shortage of male donkeys in the forest". The fox continued. "A handsome donkey, like you, will be entitled for at the minimum, three beautiful and healthy female donkeys in the forest". "As a package deal, you get free food and no hard labor". You are one of the good souls. You deserve this and much more. Make a visit once and you will know all by yourself. If you don't like, the fox assured that, I will reach you back to this village.

Fox set out on a long journey lasting several hours. It was hungry week and tired. The fox explained the donkey about the beautiful life in the forest, all the way.

Finally, the donkey arrived into the dark den. It could not see anything inside. It would take some time before it can see around.

The hungry lion, took a giant leap on the donkey only to miss it by a few inches. The donkey realized that everything is not all right. It ran towards the entry to the den and started walking slowly.

The lion was apologetic.

Fox assured the lion. "After all the donkey has no other place to go. After all it has no brains like humans. It would come along with

me even if I cheat hundred times. Okay, let us make a second attempt.

"You know, I have become weak without food. That is how, I missed the target. But now, it needs a little while before I make another attempt on it. I know, you are clever and you would bring again the brainless beast for a feast".

"In the intervening time, I will go to the nearby lake drink some water and make myself fresh and strong before I come back. Wait for me till then". Saying so, the lion vanished into the dense trees near its den towards the lake.

The fox followed the foot prints of the donkey and located it. The donkey was in terribly bad mental and physical state following the long journey to the jungle followed by a socking incident inside the den.

Fox, with a surprise all over its face, demanded to know from the donkey, as what made it run from the den. Donkey said, "A huge object fell close to a place where it stood. I came running to save myself.

The replied, "It is merely his fear and there was no danger to its life". One of the three

donkeys was waiting to meet you. On seeing you, instantly, it fell in love. In her anxiety she came rushed towards you. When I looked around for you and you were gone”.

Donkey looked at the fox in disbelief. Now the fox decided to play with the sentiments. Fox new sentiments works with humans. So it should work with donkeys too.

“I have a bad news for you”, said the fox. Soon after you left, all the three female donkeys felt that you do not like them at all. So they have decided to commit suicide.

Fox said, “In the forest, we animals fear that the ghosts of such life will haunt you and trouble you throughout your life. “Better, you come back and get married to the three donkeys and lead a royal life”, the fox concluded.

The weak and worn out donkey found no other better solution than to follow the fox.

I

in the den, the fox waited for a while. He saw the fox trembling in fear. Donkeys might have a strong legs and could give a might kick when in normal health. It won't need a lion to kill and eat this beast.

Slowly the fox bit the ears of the donkey. This was enough for the donkey to fall

unconscious. The fox ate up the donkey's brain, before the lion reached.

Lion which arrived in the den a little later was shocked and angry to find the donkey's brain was not there in the place.

The clever fox, reminded the lion the fact that not only the humans but every other specie living in the vicinity of humans also did not have brains!

Lion found, the fox was always right.

Lion gave the lion's share to its trusted friend and adviser the fox and enjoyed a nice feast.

Epilog:

Now, it is time you evaluate your friends in the circle of your friends. The most cunning and powerful will always feast on weaker in their circle. Figure out the lions, fox and donkeys in your friend-circle.

Theme: Do not befriend those stronger than you!

Know this:

(1) A few among us declare proudly our friendship with rich persons. Some feels proud in their association with a thug. Some others seek to have friendship with a person holding an official position, a sports man or some one popular.

(2) To see a hero in others we should have reduced ourselves in some way.

(3) Every person whom you seek to make friendship, have grown in their stature by stepping over, people how seek to make friendship with them.

(4) Remember that there were no heroes existed in the past. There are no heroes now and will be no hero's in future. If they exist, the reason is you feel yourself weak. Reduced yourself in one or more ways and that is the reason you see a hero in some one.

(5) Keep away from people who are known for their Power possessions and positions.

(6) If many people think that a particular person is evil, there should be a reason behind it. Never become friendly with such persons.

(7) Keep away or run away from people who praise you. There are many who make good their life only through flattery.

(8) World History has proven time and again that any country with a friendly relationship with a stronger country neither could preserve its sovereign existence nor ever prospered.

(9) Small plants do not grow under a big tree.

When you were young a simple story was told to you. Some of you might remember the story. But none of you would have understood the message in the story.

Theme: Do not befriend those who are stronger than you!

Short Story: 03

Monkey's friend, the Crocodile.

"People who praise you today, will one day bring harm to your life, possession, and position", said the mother monkey called Shylaa.

The Shylaa continued. "Not everyone talks sweet, agrees with your views and pleases you is a friend. More over, the true friendship and love are illusions. They are creation of our minds. It does not exist in real life. In

reality, this is not possible. Those who have realized this will suffer a bit".

"It is quite possible that more than an enemy, a friend is likely to do you harm".

"An intelligent person prayed to God - "God, I can presume what harm an enemy can do to me. Therefore I will not be harmed by them and can protect myself. But I do not know what or when my friends will bring harm to me. Therefore, God please protect me from friends."

The husband of monkey Shylaa who was listening to the speech of his wife realized that this knowledge that was delivered by his wife was meant for him.



Even then, he did not bother. Still worst, he was mocking at his wife's advice.

You may wonder, what made the mother monkey lecture this to her husband. There was an important development in their lives.

The place where the monkeys lived can be called monkey's bastion. But, occasionally crocodiles surfaced there.

They ate and enjoyed the black berry fruits that lay on the river banks. The husband monkey on the tree noticed this. He said to the crocodile, "Oh King of the River, do you want more of these fruits?" he asked. The crocodile was delighted to hear this and said, "Yes, I would love some more". From that day onwards, every day the crocodile came to the bank of the river and the monkey plucked the fruits and threw them down for him.

This marked the beginning of friendship between the monkey and the crocodile. The monkey took great pride in this friendship. The monkey's wife felt that this new friendship would be harmful for her husband, but he did not bother to listen to her.

Many times the monkey's wife tried to counsel her husband against this friendship

through good advice to her husband, but in vain. She gave him one final warning - "I hope that all my repeated good advice has not gone in vain. A good wife is like a good minister, to save or warn her husband before an evil befalls is her duty. I have done that. I assure you that this new friendship with the crocodile will not bring any good to you. Only time will tell what I said is right. May God help you."

The crocodile and the monkey continued their friendship for a long time. The monkey continued to give the crocodile the fruits and in turn the crocodile would heap praises on the monkey. Other animals envied this. The crocodile used to take the fruits for his wife and children too.

There will be a turning point in the life of man and his friends. Similarly, it happened to the friendship between the crocodile and the monkey.

After sometime eating the same fruits, the crocodile's wife started getting bored. She wanted variety. Her evil mind started thinking, "If the fruits given by the monkey were this tasty, how tasty would the monkey be since it had grown up eating these fruits". She informed her husband about her desire and suggested to her husband that he invite

the monkey and the entire family to their place on a full moon night for dinner and then set up a plan to eat them. Though her husband was shocked at this unusual request, he felt that this was a good idea and even praised her, as he wanted to satisfy his wife's wish.

"But how will the monkey trust our invitation and come boldly to our house?" asked the crocodile.

What is the difference between a human and a monkey? It's the tail!

Man gives more importance to his friends. Friendship cards are more in circulation than parents' day cards.

Friends have become more important than parents, brothers and sisters.

"If you call him "my friend" three times, the monkey would surely fall in your net", said the crocodile's wife. Immediately they set about putting their plan into action.

The crocodile informed the monkey about the party and the invitation from his family to the monkey and his family. He explained that it was a thanksgiving party. As the monkey's wife refused to come, the monkey came down immediately from the tree to accept his friend's invitation. The monkey

disregarded his wife's warning and jumped on the back of the crocodile and started crossing the river.

The crocodile and monkey had crossed halfway. The crocodile was thrilled that his clever wife's plan had worked. Now that they were in water, he felt that the monkey was trapped with no chance of escape. The crocodile slowly told the monkey about his wife's desire to eat him and his family.

After the initial shock on listening to this, the monkey recovered. He thought how foolish he had been neglecting his wife's warning! He thought of a way to escape.

He said to the crocodile, "Hey, crocodile! You are about to commit a grave mistake. You are aware that the heart is the sweetest part of the monkey, but don't you know that the monkeys usually remove them and hang them on the tree in the morning till they retire for the day?

If you had informed me earlier, I would have placed back my heart and come. Wouldn't I do this for my friend?"

The crocodile was reflecting on this.

The monkey was persistent. He said, "O' king of the river, don't you know that the river queen will be angry if you brought me

without my heart?"

The crocodile had no other choice but to trust his friend. He brought the monkey back to its tree. The monkey relieved of the trauma promised to bring his heart back with him. That was the last time he ever spoke to the crocodile.

The poor crocodile waited for a long time and left home tired and frightened wondering how his wife would react for missing the meal.

Theme: Feeling Inferior is foolishness.

Know this:

(1) Day-in and day-out, we are being exploited by several people around us by making us feel inferior.

(2) How much of fairness cream would turn a crow into a dove?

(3) Without exception, some times you and even I exploit, without being conscious of it.

(4) If someone deceives you, we are more to be blamed than those who deceive you.

(5) It is important to know that no one is superior to others all the time and in every situation.

(6) Equally so, every one is inferior to some

one, somewhere, in some occasions.

(7) We can safely conclude no one is superior or inferior to any one else, all the time. So no one needs to feel inferior.

A simple story was told for ages to drive home this simple phenomenon. But most of us did not absorb the message. The consequences are many. Hurt feelings, lost money and so on.

Theme: Feeling Inferior is foolish.

Short story: 04.

FOOLISH CROW AND THE GREEDY FOX

This story has two versions - one an old story and the second its new form.

First, let me give a small description about our old times because children of today's may not appreciate the story without it.

In the villages of those days there was no electricity in use. Roads were not concrete or tar-topped. There were no cars or buses. A simple situation to imagine is that, in Chennai, in Tamil Nadu, people used to come in tourist buses to see the LIC building on Mount road and admired. The 14 story building, in those days was a great engineering accomplishment. The tallest structure in

some 1000 Kilometer area around it!

Some 40 years ago, you may spot one or two cars in the district headquarters.

Now let us turn to the older version of the story.



STORY OF THE CROW (Old version).

This is in that period of civilization when humans used to walk many miles along with their cattle.

One thing that has not changed over the years is the fast-food joints!

Under a large tree, an old lady ran a "fast

food" joint selling vadai. She did the job of cooking, distributing, cleaning, collection and security with great enthusiasm.

Customers would be waiting for their turn to have food while the aroma of food would waft over a large area. The crow and the fox would wait for the right opportunity at a distance to grab their pick.

The crow waited for the old lady to doze off and took this opportunity to grab a vadai. The lady woke and threw the long stick she kept near her. But the crow flew to the trees, unhurt.

It settled down on the branch. When it was about to enjoy the meal; it realized that a fox was looking at it, sitting right below, on the ground.

The fox addressed the crow saying, "Brother Crow, do you remember me? I am your diehard fan". Now the crow was in a dilemma whether to eat or speak to the fox. "No", said the crow. "Why don't you open your mouth and say so," said the fox. Some how the fox wanted the crow to open its mouth so that the vadai would fall down and he could pick it.

The cunning fox was just waiting to eat the vadai. The crow looked around and hooked

the vadai on one of the branches of the tree. Then looking down, he asked the fox what it wanted. He asked, "Shall I sing a song which you can listen to and go?" Realizing that his plan did not work, the fox took to his heels and disappeared.

A baby crow watched this scenario and was confused. The father crow explained it as below.

I have heard stories of our ancestors. They like the present day humans, due to their low esteem, often became a prey, resulting in loss of possessions and their rights. Except for humans, no other creatures on earth have the complex of "high and low" among themselves.

Not everyone considers one high or low in status every time and all occasions. Occasionally, at some point of time, the person might become rich. Everybody during their lifetime, at times may become low in their status. Therefore, it would be wrong to consider putting down or praise the person. We need not become a slave if we understand this basic concept.

There are people who will create low self-esteem in us and enslave us. Without outside help, there are those who create low-self esteem among them. They are enslaved

and exploited by others. Not only among humans, have even crows suffered from low self-esteem syndrome!

The present generation crows have come intelligent! The fox did not realize that it was difficult to outsmart those who are intelligent.

We have to learn many useful lessons from our ancestors.

If we understand them when young, we can overcome defeat, right from early stages of life.

Long ago, the crows had a low self esteem and inferiority complex that they were not beautiful like peacock, white as a dove and did not have a sweet voice like Koel.

But they did not realize that they had many virtues which other birds didn't have.

The crows do not have enemies. They are considered as ancestors of humans and are given a feast during a death ceremony and anniversaries of their loved ones!

On festivals and often in normal days humans offer food only to crows and none else.

"When we have so many virtues to be happy about, why should we (crows) suffer from

inferiority complex”?

The “modern” crows have realized the truth. They do not suffer from inferiority complex any more. Therefore crows do not fall prey to others.

We decided do not complain that others are bad and they cheat us. We admit openly that we were stupid and so vulnerable. We have changed our attitudes. But the humans have not, concluded the father crow.

Theme: Strategies are important.

Know this:

(1) when things go wrong in our society, very few have the knowledge to understand them.

(2) It is our duty to blow the whistle, in time.

(3) The perpetrators of crime against society have invariably money power with which they can escape punishment.

(4) There are incidences when RTI activists and other whistle blowers are done to death as we read in News papers and magazines.

(5) One should plan their move such that while you make the right move, it should not

have a back-lash on you.

(6) Do not clash head-on with evil forces, head-on.

The following story is very useful to drive home this point.

Themes: Strategies are important.

Short story 05.

An Intelligent Crow.

The author has chosen Crows as heroes in this story, after they have realized themselves.

Those were the days when kings ruled the country.

At the edge of the capital of the city, there stood a large banyan tree. Crows and their young ones lived peacefully, for several generations. Under the tree, there were many nests and sediments. There also lived a family of snakes peacefully. Even in those days humans were destroying the forest and its habitat. The snakes and the young ones realized that it was going to be difficult living there now.

Like humans who migrated to cities from villages and towns, the snakes and the young

ones too moved to the city to the same Banyan tree where the crows had made their home. They occupied an anthill below the tree.

The crows woke up in the morning and flew to collect their food and so too the snakes and its family. The young ones of the crow and the snakes who were too young to hunt stayed behind. A bored young snake climbed the tree from its dwelling place. "Will I be able to see my nest from above", thought the young one? When it climbed up the tree, it was happy to see the nests of the birds, the young ones, and the eggs.



A villager visiting a metro, for the first time, would be excited to see the fast food shops, pizza joints and multiplexes, is not it?

Similar emotions crossed the mind of this young snake.

The young birds in their nest were frightened when they saw the young snake and alarmed when they the snake ate the egg from one of the nest.

In the evening, there was commotion in the homes of both the birds and the snakes. The frightened young birds informed their parents about the snake and how he had stolen the egg. This infuriated them and they planned to take revenge on the snakes.

An elderly and knowledgeable crow spoke to the birds and listened to their opinion and in the end decided about their plan.

As per the plan, the selected crows would sit on different trees to identify the thief in the morning and then after obtaining necessary proof, they would take further action in the afternoon. Till such time, the crows were told to be patient to whom they agreed.

Below the tree, there was a meeting among the snakes. A young snake made an announcement. It revealed a discovery, which would help the snakes in getting its

food without going out to hunt, as food was available on the tree itself! On hearing this, the snakes were immensely overjoyed.

The eldest snake informed that a final decision would be taken after observing the birds leave the nest and a bigger snake would stay put in the tree and subsequently follow the young snake to the nest.

The next morning, the crows observed the two snakes climbing up the tree. It noticed the snakes climbing up from the same tree where they resided. The crows found out the exact place where the snakes resided and informed the elderly crow. It evolved a plan and informed the other crows about it for which they got ready to implement.

“It is not possible to drive away or kill so many snakes from the tree nor is it possible for us to move away from the tree. Therefore, we need to get the help of a third person who is more powerful than us and snakes. Humans will be of great help” said the crow.

The crows got an opportunity immediately on the same day. The princess of the kingdom was taking her bath and had removed her previous jewels and kept them on the banks of the river. As per the crow’s plan, one of the crows picked up one of the jewel piece and flew to the tree. The crows immediately

started making noise, which attracted the attention of the princess's guards. They saw what was happening. They started chasing the crow with swords drawn. A group of crows followed the crow with the jeweler piece, which reached their tree. The smartness of the crow made the guards to reach the tree. It dropped the jewel in such a manner, which was observed by the guards into the snake pit. The guards broke open the pit to retrieve the jewel and in the process killed the snakes and left for the palace. _____

In the evening, when the crows and snakes returned to their nests, the snakes noticed their dead young ones and the snake pits destroyed. They left the place at night never to return. The birds were very happy. _____

Theme: Better ways to treat the God.

Know this:

(1) we face failures of every kind in our life time. Some times desperate without solutions to problems. We need a method to over come.

(2) Significant population of the planet lives by faith. The other way is, living by knowledge.

(3) It takes a long time to acquire knowledge. Not many have an ideal environment to learn.

(4) Life is too short, to learn all that is there, to learn.

(5) For the above reason, living by faith is the only way to most people.

(6) Messiahs of God described the god as a superior being.

(7) Over a period of time, we started treating god as equals. Now you read instances where you treat God as a power broker and so on.

(8) If you believe in God, treat the God as a superior entity. Look for Spiritual elevation and wellbeing.

(9) Do not involve god in material prosperity.

Now read a short story to describe a typical scenario, in the place of worship.

Short story: 06.

The merchant and the God.

Khalid Sheik was an international trader of his times.

He travels from country to country for several months and earns a great fortune.

This god-fearing merchant is coming home, with all the wealth he earned, riding his camel.



On the way, he notices a place of worship and decides to go in and worship the Lord who he felt had given these riches.

He spent some time praying and some more time in thanking Him for all the fortune he had.

On reaching the entrance of the mosque, he notices that his camel has run away. Now he was angry with God. He exclaimed in anger and sorrow "I came to worship you leaving the camel behind hoping that you would take care. But now the camel has run away and I have lost all my riches. You are responsible for this."

He cursed Him using very foul language and epithets he knew.

A Sufi saint passing by instantly knew what happened and exclaimed loudly for the merchant to hear, "God fearing is fine, but you could have tied the camel".

Theme: Delegation of responsibility.

Know this:

(1) in a large and complex environment, it is impossible to handle the entire tasks one person alone. So management gurus advocate delegation of responsibility along with authority.

(2) Be aware that, a delegated task could miserably fail, if you do not take into account a possibility of failure. Provide for check-points and inspect them periodically. Delegation frame work should signal failures and a plan B should be in place, to recover from the slippage, if any.

Theme: Delegation of responsibility._____

Short story: 07._____

The merchants' nightmare._____

This is an old Arab story. So, a donkey will invariably find its place in the list of characters.

A merchant went on a long business trip with his donkey. There were days, when the transport vehicles such as cars, planes and trains, did not exist. So donkeys, camels, horses and bulls played important role in transport of people and material. So these cattle were reared with lots of love and care.

Just as we take care of our expensive vehicles these days like cleaning and washing, servicing and tying sacred cloth on it, similarly in the olden days, these animals were taken care.

When night fell, he went to a popular hotel and met a youngster manning the reception and enquired about the facilities provided. Then he asked spoke to him, "Young man, I have few questions. My donkey is my life and I take great care of it.

Each man has certain needs, which changes with seasons. So, is it with my donkey?

The youngster replied, "Sir, you have not understood well about our hotel. Our guests, like you, are rich people. For them, their donkeys are more important than humans and are therefore taken good care by us".

The merchant was still worried about his donkey. So he continued. "Ok, you should know that my donkey is very old and needs a good bed prepared with hay for it to sleep at night,"

The youngster patted the donkey and replied that it will be taken care of. "Not only that," replied the man, "Since the donkey is old, its teeth are not strong and therefore it is important that the grass given is soft and chewable.

"Don't I know your worries," asked the receptionist. "You need not even inform us about these little things. If we don't realize these issues, then we consider ourselves not good" he replied.

The visitor felt greatly relieved hearing this. He ate his food and went to his room to sleep. He did not even realize how long he slept and woke up suddenly. A dream he dreamt startled him. He dreamt that his donkey was without water and food and laid

suffering on the cold floor.

He hesitated and then stepped out from his room and went to the lodging where his donkey was kept. The scene he saw made his blood freeze. There wasn't much difference in what he dreamt and what he saw in front of him.

Post Script:

Every one has their own set priorities. The care we take to handle or safekeeping some of our belonging, which is very important to us, need not be so important to another person.

If you lend your vehicle, a camera or a laptop to a friend, more often, it would require expert attention when you receive it back. It is not the ill-intentions on their part but it reflects the fact that it is not so much dear to them, as it is to you.

When I heard the story from my friend, I had the following thought crossed my mind. "These marketing guys have not changed their ways, over several centuries now. May be they will never change.

Theme: Don't chase unachievable targets.

Know this:

(1) there are people who believe that, only when you target moon, you will touch the sky. It is okay as long as successes, how ever small, encourage you and failed goals do not trouble you.

(2) A uniform and step by step growth may be sustainable and easier to accomplish than to achieve in one giant leap.

(3) Our goals shall not be guided merely by desires alone. It should be supported by our strength. We should know both our strengths and weaknesses.



While you leverage on your strength, work on weakness to match the efforts needed to reach our targets.

Theme 8: Forget anything that is beyond your reach.

Short Story 8:

The Sour Grapes.

There is a loud and clear message in this story. When I was young, I was not sure why this story was told. But, in our present times, this story is extremely helpful and useful as a medicine to several ills in the society.

A fox was very hungry. He was walking along a grape farm. To quench my hunger, no harm in entering the farm the fox thought. On seeing a big bunch of luscious grapes hanging, its hunger increased.

It jumped trying to pick the grapes but since it could not reach it, it abandoned and went its way. Just to satisfy its mind, which was reeling with hunger and thirst, it said that the grapes must be sour.

Without tasting the grapes, why did the fox decide the grapes would not be tasty?

1. What it could not achieve, it had spoken insultingly or (2) that it is useless to follow something that cannot be achieved for

many and how to correct it is what can be understood.

There are many who compete for a position in a small space which is highly rewarding. The youngsters spend time in becoming a cricketer, a film actor, a political leader etc. They should understand their strength & weakness in time to change to alternate profession.

Perhaps this story should have been told for such people listed above.

Theme: Leading an impeccable life.

Know this:

(1) Very few among those who hold an official position, a public office wealthy are honest.

(2) In most societies, dishonesty is accepted as natural; the law of the land is lenient towards the dishonest;

(3) Honest among the people in a society, sometimes are uncomfortable to evil persons in the society.

(4) It requires a strong conviction and understanding of life fully to remain honest. Alternately fear for god or law, in committing sins may also be a reason for some one to

be honest.

(5) Those who lead a spotless life. Do not gang up with like minded. That makes them vulnerable to attacks by evil doers in that society.

(6) Those special people among us, whom we refer to as men of knowledge, Gyanis, sadhus, sages and saints are honest, good and kind. They never become a victim to evil. Because, Goodness teamed with knowledge is a stronger than any one else.

(7) We understand that here is a "rule of the jungle". This principle is also known as "the Survival of the fittest". While we live no differently from animals, we pretend that we are different.

Theme: Leading an impeccable life.

Short Story 09.

Snake in the town:

This story tell you that anyone can lead an impeccable life. Yet be safe at the hands of their detractors.

The story is based on a parable of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Now, read the story.

Deep into a forest, under a Banyan tree, a saint was teaching his disciples the benefits

of leading an impeccable life.

The saint further said, practice at the least one good principle in life For instance, practice non-violence against any other life.



Essentially this means," do not bring grief to others".

To reach the abode of God, you need to only practice this. There was no need for prayers. Thapas, (the penance) or any yoga asanas are redundant, the saint taught. We are unsure to what extent his disciples

appreciated this advice or practiced what he taught. A deadly poisonous cobra living in a pit close by decided to follow the teachings of the saint.

It decided to give up the evil habits of a snake and live the life of the saints and took the saint's blessings.

The saint was happy that the snake is looking for salvation.

The cobra thought that since the saint came from a city, living a life of good thoughts and deeds should be possible only in cities. It therefore, decided to migrate to the city.

The Cobra found, unlike forests, the city's environment was polluted. It took a few more days to find even the minds of people were equally polluted.

During the initial few days, when the cobra went hunting for its prey, the people around were frightened and ran away. It took no time to realize that the snake was harmless. There after, the children watched the cobra hunting its food without fear.

Some of the school children stopped by and throw stones at the cobra, for fun. The snake did not react since it was following the saint's teachings in words and spirit.

The children became bolder by day and one day caught the cobra by its tail and swung it around. This broke its bones and the cobra fell unconscious. The children went away thinking the cobra died. The cobra somehow managed to get back to its pit. It took many days for its health to recover. Finally some day, it slowly wriggled its way and reached the forest.

Cobra narrated the hardships it had faced in the city to the saint. He appreciated the cobra for its determination, against all odds.

But, the saint continued, "You need not hurt some one". "Just to keep who trouble away, you could have merely hissed at them".

"That would frighten them and they would not have come near you", said the saint.

Post Script:

* Every spiritual master known to mankind is kind hearted persons. They lead an impeccable life. They were never troubled by any one, anywhere. This is possible through appropriate posture in public.

* Both, Agori Baba in Himalayas (Reference : Swamy Rama, Living with Himalayan Masters), Seshadri swamigal of Tiruvannamalai, behaved as through they

were insane people. Often, their behavior used to be unpredictable. That kept away people whom they do not want around.

* The unwritten law for people in the Spiritual path is that they should never come under spot light. Their yogi powers should not be displayed for public attention. They should maintain a low profile.

* While remaining a soft personal internally, one can give an appearance of being taught externally.

Theme: Lies with good intentions.

Know this:

(1) ideally, one should desist from telling lies in a situation.

(2) some times a lie told with good intentions are seen better than a truth said with ill intentions.

How is that? Let us read a nice story originated from the Arab world.

Theme: Lies with good intentions.

Short story. 10.

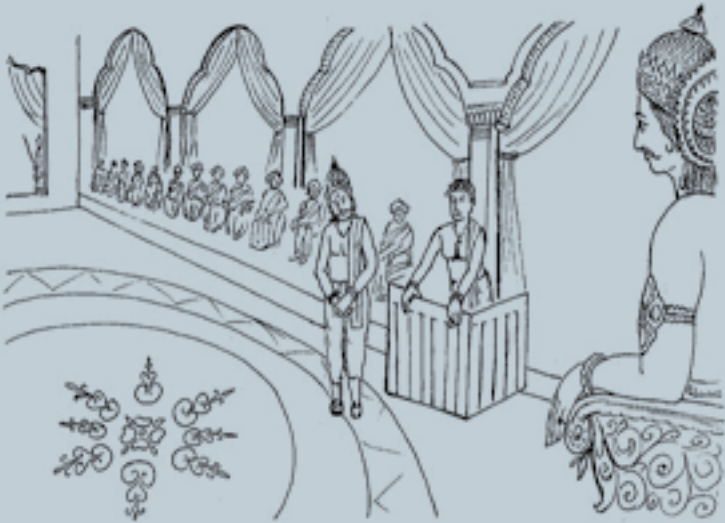
A lie told with good intentions.

A scene in the king's court.

A spy caught by the guards was brought before the king. Typically, spies were handed

down death penalty.

Only two ministers in the king's court knew the language spoken by the spy. But they were competitors to win the heart of the king.



When the spy realized that death sentence was pronounced by the king, he became upset and scolded the king in his mother tongue.

The two ministers looked at each other. The first minister addressed the king and stated that the prisoner had quoted from the Koran.

The King looked at his ministers inquiringly. The minister replied that the spy quoted the following verse from the Holy Koran... that the person who controls his anger and forgives will find a place in heaven because God loves good people. Immediately, the king looked at the prisoner and exclaimed. He addressed him "Friend, at the right moment you have reminded me about God's desire. You have saved from committing a wrong". The King ordered the prisoner to be freed.

The second minister was nervous. He felt this would be the right time to take revenge on the other minister by informing the king the truth that the spy in fact abused the king. This will anger the king against the first minister. He addressed the king, "Lord, what the minister translated for you are nothing but lies". "The spy had, in fact, abused you. And choose a foul language against you."

The king thought for a while and replied the second minister that first minister's lie was better than his truth.

The king said, "Your truth reflects your ill-

intention of taking revenge on the other minister with whom you do not get along well". Whereas, the king continued, "the other minister lied but the lie had a good intention that I should not drift from the path shown by the Holy Koran". (The quote from the holy Koran which the minister pointed out to him to show mercy to the enemy).

Theme: Live life. Do not preparing for a living...

Know this:

(1) Life is like a journey, enjoy the journey.

(2) We gather material money and other preparation as though we are preparing for a journey.

(3) We fail to realize that we are already in the journey and the journey would come to an end any time soon. All that gathered for the journey will be left behind when the journey comes to an end.

(4) So, stop preparing for the journey and start enjoying it.

Theme: Live your life, rather than preparing for a living.

Short Story 11.

How much you need for your life?

Living in Poverty is a hell on earth. We need

resources to live our lives. The issue is, "how much is good enough". There are numerous stories that convey the same message, "Stop preparation, Starting enjoying the life popularly called life".

It is possible you have read the short story by the Russian Short story by Leo Tolstoy with the same theme. There are several other stories that were told in various parts of the world.

Now lets move on to two very short stories here.

Story A: A farmer felt that the land that he owned was not enough for a happy living.

He undertook a penance for several years.

Some day, the Gods were moved by the devotion of their disciples and descended on to the earth. God offered the farmer, three boons. The farmer said he would be happy with just one.

He wanted to lead a happy life and so wanted more land than what he possessed.

God said, "Your wish is granted".

The offer was that, at dawn the farmer would start running or walking at sun-rise and come back to the starting point before the sun-set. The area covered in the intervening

time, will be his.

Should he fail to reach the starting point, he would not get any land.

Next day, at sunrise, the devotee started running. This greedy person ran without having food or rest. He ran over hills, stones and thorns. His feet were injured. Blood was ooze out of his injured feet. That did not deter him. He ran under scorching sun, hungry and thirsty.

The sunset was fast approaching. His body was tired but not yet, his spirit.

There were only few tens of steps to reach the finishing point (the starting place), when the sun had set. Driven by despair and fatigue he dropped down dead.

His friends and relatives came running to see him crashing to the ground and were shocked. He was dead. They conducted his last rites and dug a six feet length and four feet width land and buried him.

In the sky, an angel stopped over to see what was happening down below. God explained the angel, the following:

“Man requires only this much piece of land that is all. But, he becomes greedy, ruins his life and returns to me in a hurry!”

Man in his greed, spends his entire life accumulating wealth. In this processes he deprives the people around of their dues. Becomes responsible for poverty and distress of several people in his society.

Never introspect whether he needs so much of wealth? Would he live so long, to enjoy such a wealth he amasses?

Theme: Don't cheat and don't be cheated.

Know this:

(1) in a society, a few people cheat many other people, all the time.

(2) People cheat others to deprive others of their possession or position.

(3) Ignorance or lack of knowledge makes one vulnerable to be cheated.

(4) Ignorance in conjunction with greed makes one more vulnerable to be cheated.

(5) Poorest among the society are the people who were cheated by many people, all the time.

(6) Cheating can be defined as a method of systematic exploitation of ones ignorance in combination with a need or greed.

Superstitions. Are untested or unverifiable knowledge, reaching us through our culture?

No one knows its origin or the situation in which it emerged. Some of the superstitions may be based on wrong application of statistics. Even well lettered people do not want to take chances when confronted with situation involving superstition.

Inauspicious time: Hindu calendars have slots of good or auspicious time and inauspicious times every day. People do not step out of their home for activities considered important. No important actions are initiated at the inauspicious hours of the day.

There is no proof that every activity initiated at auspicious time was bucketsful from start to end or the opposite.

Let us halt the discussion here to read a story.

Theme: Don't cheat and don't be cheated.

Short Story 12.

Inauspicious tree. (Superstitions)

A teacher was lecturing his students about rational thinking and he tells a story to drive home his point.

The hero in this story is a quite, pious person

called Ganesh . He has a neighbor called Amar. Amar was a talkative, outgoing and street smart.

There was a tree in front of Ganesh's house. It was too old. The leaves withered away and branches dying gradually.

Amar approached Ganesh with a suggestion, to uproot the dying plant. He reasoned that the shadow of a dying plant would bring ill luck on which it falls. He listed several instances in his family and friend circle such disasters fell upon.

It requires the knowledge of a scientist or the conviction of saints to pay no heed to such lunatic suggestions. We, the ordinary mortals. Successfully establish a strong connection between our small problems in our lives and superstitions. Thereafter, live through nightmares.

So did Ganesh. He was happy to hear the reasons for his problems through his neighbor who traced his problem to a dying tree. Ganesh was confident that his problems would cease to exist after the tree is razed to the ground.

His neighbor came along with a woodcutter and cut the tree into small pieces. Ganesh paid the fees and Amar took the cut wood to

his home.

Amar's wife was too proud of her husband who with a few words managed to get fire wood that would meet their need for several months to come.

It took Ganesh a few months and a few friends to understand that his neighbor had exploited his foolishness.

Years rolled by. Ganesh planted a sapling in the place they uprooted the tree.

A NEW version of this story.

40 years had passed, quickly. In both the houses, their sons live happily with their children and grand children. Ganesh and Amar passed into past.

The tree planted by Ganesh grew. That mango tree gave fruits for two generation of Ganesh and Amar family.

The Tree became old and was wilting and stood with all its leaves fallen.

Amar must have explained his son the way he fooled his neighbor and met his fire wood needs from neighbor's tree.

History repeats. Like his father Amar, the son now asked the neighbor, Ganesh's son to cut down the tree. He explained in detail the problems his friends and relatives had

undergone due to the shadow of a dying tree falling on humans.

On hearing this, the neighbor, a thought flashed through his mind. (Some instances from his life when he lost out to others due to ignorance). It must be his father who cheated my father. The smart son became alert instantly.

He replied his neighbor that he was very well aware of the problem but he did not have sufficient money for doing that.

The neighbor was disappointed. He quickly calculated the cost of cutting and cost of the firewood the tree could fetch. The cost of cutting is an insignificant portion of the fire would he would get.

He informed his neighbor that he will finance cutting of the tree. He reasoned that they were good neighbors for generations. The price he would pay for the wellbeing of his neighbor, he observed is too little.

Next day, the woodcutters came and cut down the tree. The neighbor waited for the tree to be cut into small pieces.

When the wood cutters have completed the job, the son Ganesh, the owner of the tree profusely thanked his neighbor for both

arranging to cut the tree and bearing the expense. It is rare to find such neighbors.

The evil neighbor attempted to shift the cut wood to his house. The owner stopped him. He reasoned that, even the fire from an inauspicious tree could cause insurmountable problems to one who comes under its influence. He, as a good neighbor would not allow that to happen.

The evil neighbor had no other rhyme or reason to take away the cut wood. Ganesh's family enjoyed the fire wood for the next several months.

Good parents share their success and failures they experienced, with the generation next which guards them against exploitations that they went through.

Theme: Don't cheat others and don't be cheated.

Short Story 13

High returns (Greed & ignorance).

Greed alone is sufficient for a person to embrace poverty. If greed accompanies ignorance, poverty never leaves a person

Mrs. Anthoni was jubilant today. She has shared her joy with the children who returned from school by presenting them sweets. She

was awaiting Mr. Antony to return home to share the achievement she made.

Why was Mrs. Anthoni very happy today?

She used to save some money from the budgeted amount for monthly expenses for quite some time now.

Her neighbor, Mrs. Suma Reddy took her to a shop started within their colony. Mostly State government employees, teachers owned a small house in that middle class colony. Invariably, every one in that colony, the house wives included, was a graduate. They own Color TV, read news papers, discuss politics and happenings all over the country.

The shop was started in one of the houses in the colony. The owners, strangers to the city, wore expensive gold ornaments, displaying their affluence.

"They had an interesting scheme", Mrs. Suma reddy observed, "You pay a third of the show room price of any electronic and electrical gadgets used at home. Wait for three months. Take home the piece without paying a Rupee more".

Mrs. Anthoni was curious, how was it possible? Mrs. Suma Reddy replied, "Well, I also got the same thought and asked the owners". Their answer was convincing,

they don't have any establishment expense of such large show rooms in busy business centers. The show rooms have flashy interiors, heavy lighting uniformed graduate shop assistants. All costs a lot of money. Who pays all the expense? Mrs. Anthoni said, "It is we".

Together, they invested some Rs 3000 for a refrigerator each. Both had an old, noisy refrigerator in their homes.

They did not inform their respective husbands till they got the piece delivered.

Today with Mrs. Suma Reddy and Mrs. Anthoni got their brand new refrigerator.

It is now, six months since the new shop was opened. Both Mrs. Suma Reddy and Mrs. Anthoni bought quite a few things, this time with their husband's knowledge.

Now several relatives in distant districts were informed. Some had kept their money for their ward's education and some others for their daughter's marriage.

The promoters offered new deal. In the event they do not want to buy a gadget, he would return three times the amount by the turn of fourth month.

It is now nine months since the shop was opened. Now there is a queue to pay the

deposits. Month eleven. The shop was found closed.

The initial news was that the promoters have gone home due to some emergency situation at home. That is what the watchman cum helper in the shop was told to inform who so ever the enquiries.

Now it is the start of the thirteenth month. Nearly four hundred people stand before the police station and demand action to bring the promoters.

News papers and TV channel crews are busy interviewing those who lost their money.

Top brass of police assures immediate action. The sketches of the promoters are made by the artist from police department.

An estimated Rupees 10 Crore were made good by twosome in less than a year.

(1) No one ever thought what kind of investment would fetch such a huge profit to give 300% returns to the investors!

(2) This is not the first such incidence. It happened before ad it would happen again.

(3) Private finance companies, chit fund companies, employment agencies take huge money from people round the year. Print and visual Media flashes the news day-in and

day-out.

Still year after year people get deceived. Don't know if such events take place in any other part of the globe?

IF some one offer returns much more than Government banks, stop and think. Do not rush to throw your life's savings into such impossible schemes. Talk to a bank manager a chartered accountant or finance professional.

Ultimately do not become a victim of cheating by succumbing to silly tricks of the crooks.

Theme: Clinging.

Know this:

(1) we cling to Material, people, faith, belief. But feel insecure without, even any one of them.

(2) Religions advice giving a substantial portion of your property in Charity. (We don't do it).

(3) The people who take to spiritual path succeed to Un-cling. Said in other way, they give up whatever they help, consciously and happily.

(4) In the eastern religions, when one undertakes a pilgrimage to a holy place, should invariably leave something. Unfortunately, it

is reduced to a symbolic, or a gesture instead of implementing both in letters and spirits.

(5) What you should leave is not what you liked. Rather what you hold on to.

Theme: Clinging.

Short Story 14.

African Monkeys.

Darwin considered we are descendants of Monkeys. Going by the following story, we will strongly believe and accept that we are true descendants of Monkeys.

I used to be feeling great about scientists who virtually live in forests under hostile living conditions researching various animal species.

When I read the following story, I realized that the motive behind these scientists need not be the love of the species. To study them to enslave them.

Here is a true story involving monkeys.

There are different types of monkeys living happily and enjoy their freedom in the jungles of Africa. These are in great demand in the countries world over.

They are caught and transported to various Zoo-parks, kept in cages for its life.

Like other animals, they lose their freedom and are deprived of good food and are put to hostile weather alien to these animals.

In early times, mechanical devices called traps were deployed to capture monkeys. The spring loaded mechanical gadget invariably



Significant number of injured animals dies before reaching its destination.

Scientists researching on animals, worldwide

conduct various experiments to study their behavior.

One of their important finding among them is that monkey Cling on to what ever it took.

The experiments consisted of a specially designed bottles filled with peanuts. The bottles were designed with narrow neck sufficient for a monkey's hand can freely enter. But, when it closes its fist, the hand cannot come out.

These bottles were placed in the forest where monkeys frequented. Peanuts, which are the favorite food of the monkeys, were placed inside the narrow neck of the bottles.

The monkeys would not let go the bottle after taking the peanuts in its hand. For hours on end, the monkeys will be stationary with the large bottle. They are caught, without any injury and exported.

We understand that all that the monkeys needed for its freedom just to give up the peanuts they like so much.

Even among educated affluent people refuse to climb down a small public office which they climb.

The evil traders around the globe made full use of this quality of monkeys in human and exploited to their advantage.

Most of us are enslaved to Coffee, Tea and Cigarette was given to our ancestors for free. They caught it and were enslaved.

In a way, I consider monkeys are better specie than us. The reason being, unlike a single monkey being enslaved by its clinging, we human beings are enslaved generation after generation.

What ever is a peanut for monkeys, freebie is for us humans.

We will discuss the Freebie in a later page.

Theme: Freebie enslaves.

Know this:

(1) what is Peanuts to monkeys, freebie are to humans.

(2) Freebie is traps that enslave us.

(3) Those who seek freebie are people who lack in basic knowledge / awareness that a human should possess. If they do not, they are no better than animals.

(4) Multinationals gave away Cigarettes and Tea for free. After people got addicted to its use, there was a price for it. With time, generations are getting addicted to these products. Now the manufacturers make a killing.

(5) Internet is becoming an indispensable part of our life. More and more people get sucked into it. It is because, the services are offered for free. There will soon be a day when a hefty monthly bill will trouble us.

(6) Many fall a victim for the marketing gimmicks like, for each product you buy, one more given for free. If you buy product X, product Y is given for free.

We never think how some thing can be given for free! Remember they are traps.

Theme: Freebie enslaves us.

Short story 15

Receive Millions for free.

The story is based on a real life incident. It took place, a decade ago.

I knew some one, back in Delhi. An engineer by profession, an engineering entrepreneur. He wanted to share some information and asked me if I can spare some time for him.

We met in a coffee shop.

The acquaintance looked here and there to ensure no one is watching him. Slowly opened his briefcase and pulled out a letter which he had kept it like a treasure.

He took a promise that I will not disclose his fortune to anyone else and handed a printout of a mail he received.

The mail is purported to have been sent by a millionaire from Africa. He wanted some one in India to convert his black money to white. He would part with one fourth of that money. The money offered as commission runs to several Crore.

The introduction says that he is retired from

his country's Army. (Don't remember which country, it was). The mail sought his bank particulars.

I enquired if this person who sent him the email is known through any prior business contact. He replied in negative. He said. He found that email in his mail box.

I told him that I felt fishy about this mail and there is nothing to verify the genuineness of the offer.

Asked what you would answer to IT department about the source of such huge transactions.

He thought for a while and said that they guys can always be managed.

I briefly gave my advice. Never give in to greed. Seeking wealth without effort will only bring misery. Perhaps, he expected me to give him a go ahead. He looked disappointed.

A week passed. A news paper report appeared explained the plight of another person who received this mail.

The report says the victim, a businessman who received the email, established contact with the sender. Soon after some one, apparently an African called-in. They

exchanged greetings and talked about their life and family for a while. They decided to meet in a start hotel in Mumbai.

The victim was ushered into to a typical two bed room accommodation. For the first time, the victim had a doubt, for he expected him to stay in a more expensive suite.

The things lying here and there doesn't show the gentleman staying there as a rich person as he described, The age and physical condition lead him to estimate he could not have been a top ranking Army officer.

While thought ran through his mind, his guests were on their job. They demanded his Credit cards at gun point. They relieved him of every thing which was worth a price.

Finally, they threatened him with a dire consequence if they approached police. Since we have every detail of you and your family, our men would kidnap your children, kill your family members, the list was quite long.

When the saddened victim was about to leave one other African joined to give punches that left him bruised and swollen.

The two men took the victim carefully through the rear passage and left him on to the street.

I sent my acquaintance the news paper clipping. He thanked me profusely.

Three email received by many which would eventually arrive at the SPAM folder, are reproduced here. The reader may examine and figure out, why these emails are fraudulent ones.

Be careful and remain warned about such communications...

***Typical emails received from fraudsters,
is given towards the end***

Theme: Punishments are indispensable in life.

Know this:

(1) Youngsters gets thrill in breaking the law of the land. Breaking speed limits while driving. Consuming banned substances.

(2) There are instances when quite a few escape punishment, That encourages others to commit crimes.

(3) If one doesn't receive punishments, he would commit more and more crimes when he will have no way to escape more severe punishments.

(4) It is the duty of the Parents, teachers and government agencies to enforce rules without any leniency. More often than not, rich and powerful among the society escape punishments.

We will see the stories of a Good Father and a Bad father in the following pages.

Theme: Punishments are indispensable in life.

Short story 16

Good father.

The following story is adopted from a Zen short story.

The good father had one son. When the son attained the age of 18, the father inquired his son as to what kind of profession he would like to pursue. The son had no doubts in his mind. He said he would do whatever his father did.

The father lived by stealing other's property and lived by that,

the son reasoned, "only in your profession, we can get so much money for them to lead a happy life. "No other profession", the son observed, fetches as much money quickly.

It is also a fact that he had no idea about any other trade to choose from.

The father demanded to know from the son, if he had considered all the pros and cons.

the boy said, "yes, I did:

The selected a most auspicious night, the darkest night of the month, the new moon day.

The father led him to a house which was locked. Demanded his son to break the door open without drawing the attention of people around. The son accomplished it

successfully

then, the father instructed the boy to get in collect all the valuables and come out quickly.

The son followed the father's instruction and disappeared inside the dark rooms of the house they are burgling.

The father, locked the door from outside and shouted, "Thief, thief". The people in the area woke from their sleep. They bet the boy, black and blue and handed over to police.

After a brief jail term, the boy was released. The typical Zen story ends like this, abruptly.

The reader IS expected to figure out, all by himself, why the father did this to his son.

Was the father a cruel person? Or he did not want his son to pursue the profession he did?

My deduction is that the father knew that his son knew one only one side of the profession, namely the easy money. Father wanted the son to know the other side, the risk involved in living as a thief. His son can then decide if he can take thieving as his profession.

Theme: Punishments are indispensable in life.

Know this:

1. Many hardened criminals of today were petty thieves some day who did not receive the punishments, in time.

2. Punishments are coarse correction mechanisms, which set the people acting in acceptable ways in the society.

3. Punishments should be both corrective deterrent for both the individuals and the society, as a whole.

(4) Our society's riches have no time for their children are brought up as good citizens. You see them involved in Drunken driving, drug abuse, white collar crimes, shoot-outs in public places - a few as a sample.

(5) Poor in the society, especially from economically and socially backward, do not know what is good and bad so that they can educate their children.

(6) Economic middle class, in general, have the environment and knowledge for bringing up their children as good citizens.

They achieve this through a combination of

educating and punishing the children when they go astray.

Theme: Delayed Punishments are dangerous.

Short story 17.

Bad father.

Today is a judgment day of the month in the kingdom where Raja lived. People await judgment the king's court would hand down to Raja.

Typically, every offender goes through the grilling and confronted with proof and witnesses in the normal course. On the judgment, the king, his ministers and nobles in the king's court formally give a final hearing and accordingly the punishment was announced in the presence of general public.

So the palace will be surrounded by anxious public to hear the verdict.

The parents and close relatives of the accused are allowed to remain in the king's court, when the judgment is pronounced. Their views are also listened to.

Today, the public gathered to hear the verdict was largest in the recent times. The people who were victims wanted to know what



Rasa as people call him earned the name Rowdy Rasa in this area. In today's society, there is a lot of demand for rowdies over whom police have no control. The politicians favor them. When they break the law, the law breaks easily because it is born weak. The criminals hire lawyers to break the laws to ensure their perpetual freedom.

Rasa began his career by stealing small things from fellow children. At that time, his name was "Thief Rasa". His father was the

chief of security in the king's court.

When his son was on the verge of getting caught, he used his influence among the authorities and saved him. As Rasa grew, so too were his crimes.

Now he was a fully grown criminal. He doesn't need his father's help any more.

He found ways of escape from the long arms of law. He committed more serious crimes and got away with it.

Finally, his crime records reached the king. People thought he would get a big punishment for all the crimes he had committed.

The court suddenly became very active. The ministers and officials arrived one by one and occupied their seats. The king followed.

The criminals were bound by chains and seated in a corner of the court. The names of the criminals were read out and the crimes they had committed. They were sentenced accordingly.

It was Rasa's term now. Rasa was brought to the middle of the king's court. His crimes were listed and he was given the death sentence.

Rasa showed no emotions. In the coming days, he would be beheaded in front of the

crowd in the large open area.

People will now never get frightened of Rasa. One last request of convict in a death row was granted, if it was genuine. This is followed from ages, till today.

The minister announced this to Rasa. Rasa wanted to talk to his father, which the minister readily obliged.

With hands tied, Rasa was allowed to talk to his father. When his father came near him, Rasa bit his father's ear and spat it out. Blood flowing from his face, his father was screaming in pain.

Those assembled were shocked and stunned at the act of Rasa.

Rasa looked at the assembly and justified his action. "When I was young and committed crimes, my father did not punish me. Instead he protected me from being punished.

Then, I grew up to a thief and even committed murders without fear. Today, I am facing death sentence.

My father misused his official position, influence and contacts in a wrong way. He did not correct me at the right time.

This act of his has brought me to the present situation. He never taught me the right

path.

Therefore, my father is responsible for the crimes I had committed. But there is no provision in the law to punish him. Therefore, I have punished him.

In future, this should be a lesson and a warning for fathers like him,” spoke Rasa.

Theme: Taking credit for someone's effort.

Know this:

(1) Very often people claim credit for some good work done.

(2) Motive for such wrong doing is profit.

(3) This takes place systematically in work places and research establishment.

(4) Some times, circumstances might bring you the credit of some one's effort. You should resist the temptations to own it up.

(5) Like the lies would, some time, this habit will bring upon a disaster.

Theme: Taking credit for someone's effort.

Short Story 18.

The saint.

This story, like many others in this book is based on a real life incident.

It was a small village in the southern part of Tamilnadu, in India. This part of the country had seen several saints. Some of them had powers called SIDHDHI. With these powers the saints, it is believed, can perform

supernatural feats.

Majority of these saints hail from among the common people. But yet, no one understands as how these few get such powers.

Many believe that they have not only supernatural and super human powers but also the science of converting one object to another.

A simple peasant had a quarrel with his wife and he left his home and then village. The drifted from one place to another.

Some day, in a distant village, people found this man lying near a, semiconscious state near a small temple. Some took pity and fed him. Some other person put him in a shelter near the temple.

Some one gave him a bath and covered him with a better cloth.

People started enquiring who was that person receiving a lot of public attention. There was speculation about his origin, his nature and mission that sent him to their village.

Ultimately, the news which crosses the boundaries of the village described him as a saint who hardly speaks. He has spiritual powers. He cures any ill health.

The news reached the same village. Some

more villagers joined to take care of this saintly person and his name and fame spread all over the region.

Some day suddenly, the saint was found dead in a pool of blood.

The press people poured into that tiny village. Top cops visited the village. The police acted swiftly. Police dogs were pressed into service. After all, the murder of a saint, in who people had immense faith. Even in his murder, there was no dearth of speculations.

It took the cops hardly a day to capture the culprits.

The press briefing reads as follows:

Two men from a nearby village heard of this saint that he had supernatural and spiritual powers. Also that he knew alchemy by which iron can be turned into gold.

They brought some bananas, flowers and such objects used in worship. They kept a watch and identified a time when the saint was all alone.

The previous night they visited along with the fruits & Flowers and woke the sleeping saint. The offered the fruit which the saint ate. Then they displayed the Crowbar they

brought along and requested the saint to turn it into a Gold bar.

The saint looked at the crow bar for a long time and did nothing more. The twosome pleaded with the saint. They grew desperate with the passage of time. In another hour, the sun will rise.

One of the two became angry and knocked the saint with the crowbar. The saint collapsed on the floor in a pool of blood. Not knowing what to do, they left everything behind and ran away. The police dog could locate them in a nearby jungle.

Those arrested is taken into judicial custody.

On the following day, the body of the slain old peasant sent for postmortem was received and buried by the villagers.

The story ends here.

The poor and mentally deranged peasant enjoyed his life for some time on the assumption that he was some notion that was not his. The same wrong notion was responsible for his miserable end too.

The lesson is that, do not accept an honor or title that you do not deserve.

Theme: Be a Roman in Rome

Know this:

(1) we move out of our birth place to other cities and countries, seeking prosperity.

(2) History has shown The Jews in Germany, The north Indians in Mumbai, Indians in Australia are targeted and attacked by locals

(3) when you live in an alien society, you should merge in that society unidentifiably. You should become one with the native society both culturally or economically.

(4) You should not see as a threat to their survival, economic freedom and their cultural identity.

(5) You might observe that, in every region in India there are people who originally belonged to different regions, living for centuries harmoniously. Their success can be traced to their seamless connectivity with the rest of the society.

Theme: There is no need to be scared about poverty.

Know this:

(1) there are poorer in the world than those who have any reasonable means to live.

(2) A rapid transition from affluence to poverty is painful.

(3) A rapid transition from poverty to affluence ruins the entire family.

(4) Money is a power. Any power when not trained to handle it properly would destroy those who handle it.

(5) Saints embrace poverty, by understanding the virtues in it.

Theme: There is no need to be scared about poverty.

Short story 19.

Sports Reporter interviews the God.

This is one of the old interviews from the file. The Sports Magazine, Sports Unlimited, deputed its senior reporter on an assignment to Bangalore. The reporter from Chennai travels by train to Bangalore.

He would be interviewing Indian cricket players after they lost to Bangladesh in the World Cup. Expecting brickbats, the players landed in Bangalore secretly.

After a visiting a couple of venues to interview

VIPs, on the hectic afternoon, he boards the AC coach. It was just a couple of minutes he boarded, he slept off.

Suddenly, someone wakes him up and points out to him that he is in the wrong seat. He could not believe his eyes, for the person who woke him is none else than GOD himself!

He immediately reaches out to get his pad and pen and starts the interview with HIM.

Reporter: I am a reporter from a popular Tamil sports magazine. There is no secret that publishing interview with you will benefit my magazine, me and the people, I humbly request.....

God: You want to interview me... No problem. Proceed.

Reporter: Thank you, tank you thank you God. People say that, no one in the society cares anyone without considerable wealth. God included. How far is this true?

God: This is the imagination of rich people who see their strength only in the wealth. You will stand clarified at the end of this interview, next....

Reporter: Why have you created people as

poor, rich, good and bad? You could have created only good people who will not sin against you or one other?

God: The differences are not my idea. None of my creations want the same. We oblige our creations with what they seek to get. Some need position, most people possessions. Very few seek good health. Still a small number seeks knowledge. Insignificant number of people seeks to come back to me and live with me for ever.

Many are confused as to what they want. Whatever they sought and I give doesn't satisfy them anyway. I am helpless!

Even every Indian TV & radio programs deliver the listeners their choice. The song what they what they want to listen... Why not me?

It is the duty of the Creator to provide what the living creatures want. I am also like the cinema directors and producers explained God. If a movie clicks and subsequent movies are made on the same theme, don't the people reject them?

Life would turn monotonous if only good people live in a society. The live would be horrible to have every one an ill-minded person. A mix of their numbers makes the

life interesting.

Do you produce movies only with heroes? You have a hero, a villain, a heroine, fighting scene, a few songs, and love scenes. It is just that. What I am doing your film producers also doing the same.

It is important the stories also change with time, to keep the tempo of life.

Reporter: God, your example of the cinema was excellent! I now clearly understand that your descending on to the earth is only to watch movies!!

But what is your reaction when the people call you a sadist when majority of the people are poor? Only the poor are affected by nature's fury. Rich people getting richer with time and lead a good life.

(Reporter was sure, God is now trapped).

God: Hey... Man, realize this. "What you have seen is false, what you have heard is also false, what you concluded is totally wrong".

Those who imagine that money alone can enable one to lead a good life, get wealth.

Those who did not seek wealth but sought to lead a sensible, caring, healthy and enjoyable life, got what they wanted but you ignorant

guys call them "poor".

Why, I am a friend of the poor people only. Don't you think the place I reside? You can see me when the poor smiles.

Reporter: How is that, affluence is painful situation and poverty a joyous situation?

God: Poor need to work hard. Those who do physical labor keep the best of health. So poverty is a container which holds sound health. No disease would ever care to come near a poor.

The rich, on the other hand, leads a life of luxury and is a moving Storehouse of diseases. The pristine life guarantees them only diseases of every kind.

Rich in the society have no true friends. Accumulating wealth they attract more enemies and detractors.

Now, tell me my dear reporter, what you want to be in life, rich or poor.

Reporter: Mister God! I have not come across even a politician so smart that you are.

It's ok. Let me ask you a pointed question. Are you personally rich or poor?

God: It depends on how any person perceives me.

While every rich person treat me as though they treat a poor. They treat me like commission agent, a power broker and what not. They deposit all their ill earned money in the temples. I use these to help the poor.

The poor look at me as a rich person and a benefactor who protect them.

Comparing a poor man's devotion to me without any offerings, a rich man's dole of illegally earned wealth has no value to me.

Reporter: One more question...

God: Now days, media guys show great interest in trying to "put too much words in the mouth of those interviewed".

If I don't move out, I'll be in trouble. Good-bye... Saying this, he disappeared.

(The reporter suddenly woke up when the sweeper came into the train to clean, got up. The train pulled into Bangalore city junction.)

Beware of Fraudsters who reach Email box. A cople of sample:

(1) I am Joseph Bika, the son to the Late David Biaka, a 52 years old

Israeli Gold/Diamond Merchant who met his immediate death at Narima

House in Colaba India in the last Mumbai Terrorist Attack. He travelled to India on a Chabad related business which was his regular rout until his death on the 26th of November 2008.

....

I need someone I can trust to act on my good interest to invest this money

in Gold and Diamond business and any other good and viable investment.

We can discuss on 20 %(percent).

If you are interested please fill the form below for documentation

(2) VIDEOCON" DIRECT RECRUITMENTS OFFER.

Your Resume has been selected for our new plant. The Company selected 62 candidates list for IT,Administration,Production, marketing and general service Departments, It is our pleasure to inform you that your Resume was selected as one of the 62 candidates shortlisted for the interview. The Company VIDEOCON is a brand name in Electronics manufacturing business in India, The Company is recruiting the candidates for our new plants in Delhi,Bangalore, Pune and mumbai. Your interview will be held at The Company Corporate office in New Delhi on 13Th of September at 11.30 AM, You will be pleased to know that The 62 candidates selected 55 candidates will be giving appointment, Meaning that your Application can progress to final stage. You will have come to The Company corporate office in New Delhi. Your offer letter with Air Ticket will be sent to you by courier before date of interview. The Company can offer you a salary with benefits for this post 35, 000/- to 2, 00, 000/- P.M. + (HRA + D.....

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS BY THE COMPANY HRD.

- 1) Photo-copies of Qualification Documents.
- 2) Photo-copies of Experience Certificates (If any)

- 3) Photo-copies of Address Proof _____
- 4) Two Passport Size Photograph. _____

You have to deposit the (Cash) as an initial amount in favor of Company HRD. Department. for Rs. 14,800/- (Fourteen thousand eight hundred rupees) through any [STATE BANK OF INDIA] Branch from your Home City to Company Senior HRD. Account NO, which will be send to you upon your response. This is a refundable interview security deposit. Your offer letter with Air tickets will be sent to your Home Address by courier after receiving the confirmation of interview security deposited in STATE BANK OF INDIA. This Company will pay all the expenditure to you at the time of face-to-face meeting with you in Company. _____

The Job profile, salary offer, and date -time of interview will be mention in your offer letter. Your offer letter will dispatch very shortly after receiving your confirmation of cash deposited in STATE BANK OF INDIA. _____

We wish you the best of luck for the subsequent and remaining stage. The last date of security deposited in bank 11th of September 2010. You have to give the information after deposited the security amount in bank to The Company HRD - direct recruitment via email. Your Letter with supporting document will be

dispatch same time by courier to your postal address after receipt of security deposited confirmation in bank. The interview process and arrangement expenditure will be paid by VIDEOCON. Lodging, traveling and local conveyance actual will be paid by VIDEOCON as per bills. The candidate has to deposit the initial refundable security as mentioned by HRD.

NB: You are advice to reconfirm your mailing address and phone number in your reply. and 14,600/- (Fourteen thousand six hundred rupees) will be the refundable amount, as 200 rupees will be deducted as bank charges for funds deposit. And if you are been selected or not, still the amount will be refunded to you, as the amount is just to prove that you will be coming for the interview in order for us not to run at lost after sending you the air ticket and you don't show up on the day of interview.

Wishing you the best of lucks

Regards

MRS.ANITA SINGH - (Executive - HRD)

Videocon Electronics India Ltd.

H.O. - 174, Videocon House,

G.K. Part ? 1, Greater Kailash.

Email: videoconrecruit@yahoo.in

Mobile-+917838002198

Call:113209052

EPILOG:

It is my experience that even a simple story, read a few times over, you get a few additional dimensions compared to first reading.

You may read these simple stories few times. Alternately, share these stories with a friend a colleague or anyother person closest to the heart. You might, not only reveal several untold dimensions but it helps internalizing these ideas.

When once internalized it gets into subconscious mind. From then on every good thoughts and action becomes your nature.

If not all, I know several of my students practice what I practice andpreach. They trace their happiness and success to the positive thoughts, positive actions and integrity.

In the third book to be released six months later, I will be talking about Spirituality to guide your material life.

I recall several questions that arose in me during when I was in my thirtys. I know many like me seeking answer to the same and similar questions for which no one has a straight answer. My next book My dear Son book 03 will have these questions the answer too.

These three books, if internalized will help understanding the life which is essential for living good.

Natarajan

Bangalore

September 2010

Books by the same author

- (1) Zen Stories (Tamil)
- (2) My Dear Son (Tamil)
- (3) Connections (Tamil)
- (4) Tedalgal - Spiritualists, as seen through the eyes of science. (Tamil)
- (5) OTTanGal - Spirituality, as seen through the eyes of Sceience. (Tamil)
- (6) My Dear Son Book 01 (English)
- (7) My Dear son Book 02 (English)

Books expected by March 2011

- (8) From the Creator's point of view. (Shake hands with Brahmma) (English)
- (9) Middle Class (Tamil)
- (10) Poor & Poverty.

Awaiting a publisher.

(11) My dear son Hindi

(12) My dear son Kannada

(13) Mydear son Marathi

